

ANTI-PARTITION OF IRELAND LEAGUE.

(LIVERPOOL AREA).

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25adh Aibreán.

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THOMAS A. MORAN,

Personal

Dear Mr Walsh,

I regret that we did not have sufficient time at our disposal to permit of a conversation at the conclusion of last Sunday's meeting. Personally I think there was a great deal of time wasted on discussion of simple questions and too much talking at random.

I have written a personal letter to Mr Davin giving my own views on the discussion regarding the Liverpool request for a whole time organizer, and attach herewith, for your own personal information, a copy of my letter. I certainly did not anticipate that there would be any opposition or difficulty in having the matter dealt with. From what transpired it would appear that Manchester now want £100, and in their endeavour to secure it they do not hesitate to hold up the appointment for the Liverpool Regional Area. If the additional grant is refused it will mean that we must wait until the June meeting of the Executive when it will be sought to divide the grant

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and should this be the case I can only say that the organizing activities of our own area will be impaired.

As I was, to a certain extent, individually concerned, I considered it imprudent for me to take part in the discussion, and give my own views. So far as the Manchester nomination was concerned, I think they were quite in order if they are satisfied that they cannot cope with the region allotted to them. They should, however, have given this matter full consideration and submitted their views to Dublin in the same way as Liverpool has done. As to an actual appointment in Manchester, I am not so sure that it would be "sailing very close" to engaging in the activities of British Political organizations, if the Executive were to sanction the appointment, as a paid organizer, of any person who is officially a representative of one of the principal Political parties, on a Public Body, in Britain. It may be argued that this is not sound reasoning. At any rate there is just the possibility that in some quarters it might be held that such a person might easily be looked upon as organizing for his own Party as well as the league.

In this connection you may recollect Manchester's insistence on the deletion of the clause in the Liverpool

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constitution which provided for the avoidance of "Participating in the activities of British Political Parties". For the life of me I could not, at the time, see why they attached so little importance to the guiding principle laid down by An Taoiseach himself and confirmed by Mr Davin in London, and tacitly approved by the London Conference. In view however of developments, and their own nomination, it may not be wide of the mark to now assume that they had an objective in view in getting rid of the clause referred to.

At any rate the matter, so far as we are concerned, could have been satisfactorily and speedily disposed of, if Mr McMahon had given a definite guidance on the matter.

It was a pity that Mr Hickey's letter was not in our hands earlier. I feel that it should have received considered discussion. Constructive ideas and suggestions are most necessary as a guidance at meetings and would save a great deal of unnecessary floundering about aimlessly in discussion. I had prepared a complete draft of rules covering the whole organization from an Annual Convention, or Supreme Governing Body, down to Branches, and intended it for guidance in drafting rules; I did not however get a chance as the method

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of procedure and discussion was too topsy turvy. As an instance of this disjointed method, you may recollect the long discussion on a Constitution, membership card and membership conditions. Eventually the Liverpool card and constitution (with deletions) was accepted. Half an hour later they were not sure whether they had adopted a membership card, and even now after agreeing on a National card, we do not know whether the Liverpool card is to be the National Card- that is the Liverpool design.

In future when the E.C has to deal with such matters It would, I think, be advisable to prepare beforehand and circulate to the delegates, draft proofs of such matters, or a circular letter embodying ideas or suggestions ^{like that from Hickey's} so that they will have something to guide them in coming to decisions. I have always found such a procedure very helpful and saves a deal of unnecessary discussion.

I regret troubling you with an unduly long letter, but I felt that you would like to have my views. I would like to hear from you at your convenience. Kind regards to yourself, Mr Hickey and Mr Fitzgerald.

Mr Barry - O. Walsh.

Mise do chara,

Comas O'neill

I am hoping that it may be possible for me to pay a visit to London shortly when we could discuss matters in general.